

REMARKS

1. In response to the Office Action mailed April 16, 2008, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 4-6, 10-12, 14 and 16-30 were last presented for examination. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 24, 25 and 29 were rejected. Claim 30 was objected to, and claims 4-6, 10-12, 14, 16-23 and 26-28 are allowed. By the foregoing Amendments, independent claims 24 and 25 have been amended and claims 29 and 30 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this paper, claims 4-6, 10-12, 14 and 16-28 will be pending in this application. Of these twenty (20) claims, six (6) claims (claims 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27) are independent.

2. Based upon the above Amendment and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Claim Objection

3. Claim 30 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Office Action states that it would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 24 and 25 have been amended to incorporate the features of allowable claim 30, and dependent claim 30 has been cancelled, thereby making the objection moot. Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under §103

4. Claims 24, 25 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,834,431 to Calmettes *et al.* (hereinafter, "Calmettes") in view of JP 8-61315 and U.S. Patent No. 5,271,648 to Krausz (hereinafter, "Krausz"). Independent claims 24 and 25 have been amended above to incorporate the features of claim 30, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable over the cited art. Applicants assert that independent claims 24 and 25 are therefore now allowable, and accordingly request that the rejections of claims 24 and 25 be reconsidered.

and that they be withdrawn. Claim 29 has been presently cancelled, rendering its rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 4-6, 10-12, 14, 16-23 and 26-28 are allowed. Based on the amendments above, including those to independent claims 24 and 25, Applicants assert that claims 4-6, 10-12, 14, 16-28 are now allowable, and request a notice from the Examiner to that effect.

Conclusion

6. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

7. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims or other subject matter disclosed in this application in a continuation or divisional application. Any cancellations and amendments of above claims, therefore, are not to be construed as an admission regarding the patentability of any claims and Applicant reserves the right to pursue such claims in a continuation or divisional application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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